



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Tony Evers, Governor | Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

September 26, 2020

To the Members and Families of Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls:

As an update to our previous letter, one employee who was suspected to have COVID-19 now is confirmed to have the virus. One member is still suspected to be positive for COVID-19 based on testing guidance from the CDC and is now isolated in the COVID-19 designated space away from all other members and staff. The employee who is suspected to have COVID-19 has had two additional negative tests; however this person will not come back to work until cleared based on CDC guidance. In addition, we have three people who are experiencing mild symptoms and we are just awaiting their test results. We have retested all members and are awaiting results.

As we are in outbreak status, we will begin doing testing at least twice per week for all members and staff, as per guidance from CMS. In addition, we are requesting that all members stay in their rooms to help minimize foot traffic within the households and ultimately minimize exposure.

We are continuing to follow our comprehensive COVID-19 Preparation and Response Action Plan and Infection Prevention Control Program, we're taking every action possible to protect our members and staff while continuing to follow guidance from the CDC, CMS, and state and local health officials.

This program includes:

- Quarantining COVID-19 positive members with dedicated staff to provide care;
- Implementing enhanced infection control and prevention precautions;
- Taking extra environmental safety precautions, such as cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces;
- Screening and monitoring members, staff, and essential visitors for expanded list of COVID-19 symptoms;
- Using and training on personal protective equipment;
- Restricting visitation to the building;
- COVID-19 testing of members and staff based on current protocols and test availability; and
- Cancelling communal activities, communal dining, and gazebo gatherings.

Members: You are a key partner in keeping yourself and others healthy. Please wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, and cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue. COVID-19 symptoms include a fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Your caregivers are here to secure your comfort and safety. Please let them know right away if you feel unwell. Staying in your room will help minimize your exposure.

I encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. The main number to the facility is 715-720-6775 or you can email us at our general email of Veterans.Home-CF@dva.wi.gov. Our member and employee's safety is our top priority and we appreciate your cooperation as we navigate these changes together.

Sincerely,

Megan Corcoran, Executive Director

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